

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 HAVANA 01728 222247Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01  
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /103 W  
-----023713 230547Z /11

R 221923Z JUN 78  
FM USINT HAVANA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2275  
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L HAVANA 1728

EO 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PDEV MILI CU ET  
SUBJ: CUBAN INTELLECTUALS ON ERITREA/ETHIOPIA

1. FOR WHAT IT IS WORTH, CUBAN NOVELIST EDMUNDO DESNOES  
("MEMORIES OF UNDERDEVELOPMENT") AND SEVERAL OTHER REGIME INTEL-  
LECTUALS REMARKED TO ACTINGUSINT CHIEF, JUNE 21, THAT ERITREAN  
QUESTION CONFRONTS CUBA WITH VERY DIFFICULT MORAL PROBLEM.  
DESNOES INDICATED, AND OTHERS AGREED, THAT IT WOULD BE MORALLY  
WRONG TO USE CUBAN TROOPS AGAINST ERITREANS.

2. DESNOES STATED THAT FIDEL CASTRO KNOWS DIFFERENCE BETWEEN  
RATIONAL AND CIVILIZED NETO AND "AGGRESSIVE" MENGISTU. THEY  
EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT CASTRO WOULD NOT INVOLVE CUBA ON  
MENGISTU'S SIDE AGAINST ERITREANS.

3. COMMENT: WE FIND THESE COMMENTS OF INTEREST BECAUSE IT IS  
EXTRAORDINARILY RARE FOR CUBANS TO EXPRESS AN OPINION ON FOREIGN  
POLICY MATTERS ON WHICH CASTRO HAS NOT CLEARLY DEFINED HIS  
STAND. FOR EXAMPLE, ON JUNE 11, GOVERNMENT-SELECTED  
UNIVERSITY STUDENTS REFUSED TO EXPRESS ANY OPINION ON  
ERITREA TO CODEL SOLARZ. WHILE WE DOUBT THAT INTELLECTUAL  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 HAVANA 01728 222247Z

OPINION HAS ANY IMPACT WHATSOEVER ON CASTRO, CUBAN INVOLVE-  
MENT IN ERITREA MIGHT WELL LEAD TO DETERIORATION OF ELAN  
WHICH HAS SO FAR BEEN GENERATED AMONG SOME ELEMENTS  
OF SOCIETY BY CUBAN MILITARY ACTIVITIES IN AFRICA.  
GLASSMAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PERSONAL OPINION, INTELLECTUALS, POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 22 jun 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978HAVANA01728  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780261-0874  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** HAVANA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780631/aaaabayg.tel  
**Line Count:** 60  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** fa9ebf83-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 26 apr 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2251368  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CUBAN INTELLECTUALS ON ERITREA/ETHIOPIA  
**TAGS:** PDEV, MILI, CU, ET, (DESNOES, EDMUNDO)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/fa9ebf83-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014